

# Burt Smith Named 'THS Athlete of the Year'

## C. Camou Handcuffs Concrete, Whiffs 15

Charlie Camou shot a two-hitter and whiffed 15 to white-wash Pre-Stressed Concrete 6.0 in a City Softball tussle Wednesday at Torrance Park.

Camou fanned six of the first nine men to face him before yielding one walk and one hit in the third. Concrete chucker Wilbur Dukes got the single to left field.

Then Charlie blanked 'em 'til the last frame when Randy Watson blooped a bleeder between the shortstop and left fielder.

## TIGHT GAME HUNG UP IN SLO-PITCH

**Aeros Start Early**  
The Aeros got busy on Dukes in the first frame when Camou, leading off, got on on an error and went to third on Larry Roy's single. Charlie was through out at home when his brother, Hank, singled, but Roy and Hank scored when Concrete shortstop Ben Avakian bloomed on John Podgurski's dart.

Gil DiSanto stepped into one of Duke's slants in the third and sat down four bases later with a home run beside his name. In the fourth, Dukes walked DiSanto with the bases chucked, forcing Charlie Camou in, and in the sixth, the Aeros picked up two more when Podgurski poled a single with H. Camou and his brother in scoring position.

Willie Sims slashed a triple to right in the third for Longren, but died.

**Trout Season to Open**  
The second of California's two trout angling seasons opens one hour before sunrise, Saturday, May 29, in waters of 10 Sierra and north coastal counties.

Wonders, the prophet said, will never cease. And wonder of wonders, two Service Club Slo-pitch groups locked in a real ball game Wednesday night.

The Hollywood Riviera Sportsmen and the Lions Club fought to a bitter 2-2 standstill until the last inning, when the Sportsmen chipped off a run to win it 3-2.

Will Zens shot a cool game from the hill for the Sportsmen, holding the Lions to singletons in the second and third frames.

**Moose Lose**  
The Torrance Moose swung everyting but their antlers at the big ball in the second Wednesday Slo-pitch game, but couldn't hit it.

They succumbed to Bruno Giacomi's American Legion ten 8.0. The Legion's big inning was the fifth, when they scored five runs.

Lions ..... 011 000 0-2  
Sportsmen ..... 000 200 1-3  
Peterson and Inman, Zens and Moss.  
Legion ..... 010 250 0-8  
Moose ..... 000 000 0-0  
Arnold and Ernest, Eritz and Dawson.



**BURT SMITH**  
Athlete of  
The Year

**ALL-AROUND MAN . . .** The huge trophy shown in the center picture is what Burt "Pappy" Smith, right, gets for doing all the things shown around the edges. Ben Smith, of the Cycle and Sport Shop, donor of the trophy, presents it to Burt as the "Outstanding Torrance High School Athlete of 1954." It is the fourth annual award—Aramis Dandy won it the first year. Burt, as shown above, is quite versatile. In football, he led the Tartars from tailback, was a triple threat, kicked, passed and ran himself to a second-string All-Bay League spot. He made All-Bay League in baseball, batting .434 from the cleanup position, and ran the 440 to second place in the league.

## Honor Hester, Burt On School Blanket

Burt Smith's Torrance High athletic career reached its zenith Thursday night when versatile "Pappy" was named "Athlete of the Year" for 1954.

The presentation was made at the annual Spring Awards Banquet for fathers and sons of track, baseball, golf and tennis athletes. Burt, who starred in football, basketball, baseball and track during his four-year career, was chosen from a group of seven athletes as the outstanding athlete at Tartarville this year.

A group of judges composed of the high school coaching staff, Ben Smith, donor of the huge "Athlete of the Year" trophy, A. C. Turney, sports booster and Reid Bundy, Herald editor, made the choice. Don Kasten, the blasting Tartar fullback, was awarded high honorable mention.

**Hester On Blanket**  
At the same time, Dennis "Double Duty" Hester, whose fleet feet carried him all the way to the CIF finals in the 880, was named outstanding track man of the year and will have his name engraved on the school's All-American Blanket.

The choice of outstanding baseball player of the year was easy—None other than Burt Smith. He'll get his name on the blanket too.

Coaches, fathers, athletes and guests gave a standing ovation to Coach Rex Welch, who will leave Torrance High this year after six years of service. The popular coach, who has been basketball mentor and chairman of the physical education department for the past three years, will resume coaching in September at Rosemead High School.

Coaches Joe Stuart and John Armer presented letters to their golf and tennis teams at the banquet, and Varsity, Bee and Cee track awards, and JV and varsity baseball letters also were passed out.

**"Pappy's" Night**  
But it was Burt Smith's night. Burt will have his name engraved on the "Athlete of the Year" trophy, the All-American Blanket, and he also received a permanent "Athlete of the Year" trophy, an All-Bay League trophy for baseball and an autographed ball.

"Pappy," a four-sport man who did everything well, will enroll at El Camino College next year to resume his career.

And he will be welcomed with open arms. Whenever Torrance High coaches had a tough job to be done, they gave it to Burt and he came through.

Coach Cliff Graybehl needed a tailback for his football team. He chose "Pappy," and the triple-threat led the team to one of its most successful seasons and to near upsets over strong Santa Monica and Inglewood.

**Gets Toughest Job**  
One of the toughest jobs in a football team is playing safety man—Burt did that, too, utilizing his blinding speed to great advantage. He was named to the All-Bay League second team in football.

In between football and track and baseball seasons, Burt occupied himself as second-stringer on the Tartar varsity cage squad. Then, when track and baseball rolled around, he rolled up his sleeves.

Coach Dick Leech needed a clean-up man — but the choice was easy. Burt ended up on the

**BASEBALL**  
Baseball, varsity. Coach—Dick Leech. First in Bay League. Letter winners—Ron Anderson, Bob Boss, Dave Drazkowlk, Gary Hakanson, Jim Haworth, George Hurley, Barrett Lee, Walt McHenry, Jim Moulton, Manuel Oloque, Burt Smith Capt., Sherwood Tiernan, Tom Vanderpool, Mgrs. Ralph Grinter, Cliff Todd, Richard Kai, Ronnie Gates.

JV baseball, Coach—Cliff Graybehl. Second in Bay League. Letter winners—Jack Anderson, Mike Bertolet, Herm Cobrea, Charley Collins, Ted Firster, Jesse Hanon, Elvis Hazel, Al Lake, Tom Mills, Carlos Skaggs, Charles Todd, Charley Valencia, Capt., Toby Venable, Bob Walker, Kenny Wheat, and Mgr. Jeff Carr.

**TRACK**  
Varsity. Coaches—Vern Wolfe, Willard Morgan. Second in Bay League. High point man—Clayton Mallard, 814.

Letter winners—Jim Babh, Bob Boss, Jerry Buchholz, Gary Cooke, Don Porth, Bob Guerra, Ron Heffer, Dennis Hester, Don Kasten, Joe Lafferty, Clayton Mallard, Larry Morgan, Harold Philip, Al Rainwater, Dave Ruffell, Burt Smith, John Sousa, Jim Stanford, Tom Walker.

Free. Same Coaches. High point man Duane Cooke, 58.

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## Warriors End Up With Four 2nd Places in League

El Camino College was either second from the top or second from the bottom in Metropolitan Conference standings in almost every sport the school participated in this year.

The Warriors took clear out second place honors in swimming (behind Santa Monica), golf (behind Santa Monica) and tied for second in football (with San Diego and Long Beach, Bakersfield first) and basketball (with Bakersfield, Long Beach first).

On the other side of the ledger, the Warriors finished dead last in cross country, and second to last in track and tennis, (dual meet). They ended up fifth in baseball, and fourth in conference tennis standings.

Santa Monica City College won the Metro Conference Carl White Trophy, emblematic of all-around sports excellence during the 1953-54 conference season. El Camino finished fifth.

The Corsairs scored heavily in the "minor sports to claim the trophy. Final scoring read: Santa Monica 82; Long Beach 48; Valley 40 1/2; East LA 40 1/2; Camino 35; Bakersfield 33 1/2; San Diego 16; and Harbor 8 1/2.

## Woodcraft Ranger Takes Honors in Roller Skating

A big future in the Roller Derby may be in store for Donald Shore, 13, of 17040 Atkinson Ave.

Shore, a Woodcraft Ranger of the Black Hawk Tribe, has won the tribe skating race for two weeks in a row and is pointing for a third.

The JV's finished the season with an overall record of 15 wins and four losses. Their only league defeats were to second-place Notre Dame 8-7, and third-place Loyola 7-6. The Serra JV's avenged both in the second round by whipping Notre Dame 11-3 and Loyola 4-2.

The loss of pitcher Dale DuFault and slugger Mike Partillo early in league play hurt the Cavalier varsity. The JV's were sparked by chucker Tom Pavola with five wins and no losses (one a no-hitter against St. Monica's).

## Serra Varsity Cools But JV's Win Loop Title

The Serra High School varsity baseball team, which started the season with a brilliant 12-game winning streak, slowed down in the stretch to finish seventh in the Catholic League.

Midland Rubber batted around one-half times to plate eight runs in the first inning and burst in the first, but the Blues whittled steadily at the lead, climaxing with their four run invective in the last frame.

The City Workers came alive suddenly in the fourth to rip seven hits for six runs, ending their scoring for the night. John Beggary, Midland manager, kept things in hand from the pitching mound in every other inning but the fourth, and got the win.

The first Blue Streak game at WALTERIA Thursday saw the Torrance Gardens and Plaza Homeowners belie their long name with a short 4-1 victory over the WALTERIA Community Methodist Church team.

**Workers Rally**  
The City Workers came alive suddenly in the fourth to rip seven hits for six runs, ending their scoring for the night. John Beggary, Midland manager, kept things in hand from the pitching mound in every other inning but the fourth, and got the win.

**Sports Calendar**  
Little Leagues  
May 30, Sunday—Tigers at Dodgers, Cards at Cubs.  
June 1, Tuesday—Dodgers at Giants.  
June 2, Wednesday—Braves at Cards.  
June 3, Thursday—Pirates at Tigers.  
June 4, Friday—Cubs at Yankees.  
June 5, Saturday—Tigers at Giants, Cards at Yankees.  
June 6, Sunday—Braves at Cubs, Pirates at Dodgers.

June 2, Wednesday—Walteria Businessmen vs. Marine Clerks, Torrance Park.  
Service Club  
June 1, Tuesday—Optimists vs. Legion at Torrance Park.  
June 2, Wednesday—HR Sportsmen vs. Walteria BMA, Torrance Park. Moose vs. Rotary, Jr. C. of C. vs. Lions, Walteria Park.

## Blues Rally In 7th Tops Firemen 8-7

In a Blue Streak hair raiseer, the National Blues scored four runs in the last inning to upset the Fire Dept. "A" squad 8-7 Thursday at WALTERIA.

Sam Dan's Firemen hopped off to an early lead with a five run burst in the first, but the Blues whittled steadily at the lead, climaxing with their four run invective in the last frame.

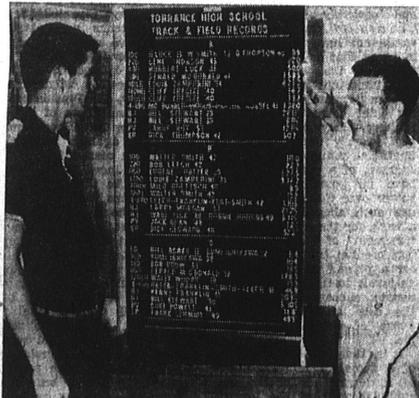
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**FOR POSTERITY . . .** THS track coach Vern Wolfe, right, shows Ron Busch, president of the 'Boys' League, the Tartar track record most likely to fall next year. (Gerald McDonald's 880 time of 1:58.5, set in 1941; Dennis Hester—1:59.8 this year—should crack it next season.) The 'Boys' League presented the handsome track record board to the school at an aud call recently.

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**YEAR TO GO . . .** Dennis Hester, right, is congratulated by THS track coach Vern Wolfe for being named outstanding track man of the year. He will have his name engraved on the School's All-American Blanket, backcountry Dennis, an excellent high jumper, flashed all the way to the CIF finals in the 880 where he ran the fastest half mile run by a Tartar in a CIF meet since the school has been in the CIF—1:59.6. He's a Junior and will be shooting for the school record (1:58.5) next year.